

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 12446 021651Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 FEA-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07  
ERDA-05 /103 W  
-----056331 031436Z /41

R 021301Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5841  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12446

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MNUC, IN, US  
SUBJECT: THE PRIME MINISTER ON NUCLEAR MATTERS

REF: NEW DELHI 11799

1. AT A SEPTEMBER 1 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR THE PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY. HE PARRIED QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS CONCERNING HOW HE ARRIVED AT THIS CONCLUSION.

2. ASKED FOR HIS POSITION ON THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE UNITED STATES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: "THEY ARE SUPPLYING IT JUST NOW. I HAVE ONLY SEEN IN THE PAPERS THE CONTROVERSY THAT IS GOING ON. ONE PAPER HAS TODAY WRITTEN THAT WE ARE WOOING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. HE SEEMS TO HAVE NO SELF-RESPECT FOR THIS COUNTRY. WHY HAVE WE TO WOO ANYBODY? WE NEITHER WANT TO BE WOODED NOR DO WE WANT TO WOO ANYBODY." ANOTHER JOURNALIST ASKED: "RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN PRESSURES PUT ON US BOTH BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERIKA AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE SAFEGUARDS FOR NUCLEAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 12446 021651Z

FUEL AND HEAVY WATER THAT WE ARE GETTING FROM THESE TWO COUNTRIES. IS NOT THAT AN INDIRECT WAY OF FORCING US TO SIGN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY?" TO THIS THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED: "WELL, I MAY TELL YOU NOW THE HISTORY OF THIS IF YOU WANT TO KNOW IT. THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY HAS NOT BEEN SIGNED BY US. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNED IT AND THERE ARE SOME WHO HAVE NOT SIGNED IT. BUT WE HAVE NOT SIGNED IT.

AND, BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WANTED THAT WE SHOULD SIGN IT AND THEY HAVE BEEN APPLYING PRESSURE ON THIS COUNTRY FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS. BUT WE HAVE NOT DONE SO. THE REASON FOR IT IS THAT WHEREAS PERHAPS WE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRY WHO HAVE MADE A DEFINITE STATEMENT THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE ATOMIC WEAPONS AT ANY COST EVEN IF THE WORLD HAS IT, I DO NOT THINK ANY OTHER COUNTRY HAS MADE THAT STATEMENT AND THOSE WHO ARE WANTING THIS NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY TO BE SIGNED, THEY THEMSELVES ARE NOT YET GIVING UP EXPLOSIONS, SOME OF THEM. THEY ARE NOT GIVING UP ATOMIK WEAPONS. AND YET THEY ARE ASKING OTHER PEOPLE TO SIGN. AND THEY MAINTAIN THEIR RIGHT TO DO ALL THIS. THAT IS WHAT I AM TELLING THEM THAT UNLESS THERE IS A BASIS OF EQUALITY IN THIS MATTER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO SIGN IT, WHATEVER MAY BE THE CONSEQUENCES. WELL, PRESSURES PEOPLE WILL PUT. IT IS UP TO US TO SEE WHETHER WE YIELD TO PRESSURES OR NOT."

3. PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO THE NYE VISIT, A JOURNALIST ASKED: "REKENTLY AN AMERICAN NUCLEAR EXPERT CAME HERE AND HE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT AFTER THIS PARTICULAR CONSIGNMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR THE TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION, FURTHER CONSIGNMENTS WILL BE DEPENDENT ON INDIA ACCEPTING INSPECTION OF THIS THING AS LAID DOWN BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. WOULD YOU AGREE TO IT?" THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE STATEMENT IN QUESTION. "HE DIDN'T TELL ME WHEN HE MET ME." HE THEN ADDED THAT HE WOULD NOT REPLY TO A "HYPO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 12446 021651Z

THETICAL STATEMENT. I DON'T THINK HE (PRESUMABLY NYE) CAN ISSUE SUCH A STATEMENT." (COMMENT: NY SAID NOTHING OF THE SORT WHILE IN INDIA. WE ASSUME HE MADE NO SUCH STATEMENT ELSEWHERE.)

4. US URANIUM FOR TARAPUR WAS THE SUBJECT OF A STRONGLY WORDED EDITORIAL IN THE AUGUST 31 "ECONOMIK TIMES." THE PAPER REFERRED TO "THE REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS INDICATED TO DELHI THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE SUPPLY OF URANIUM...UNLESS A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON SAFEGUARDS" AND SAID THIS "SHOULD CAUSE CONCERN." THE US INSISTENCE ON FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS IS LABELLED "ARM TWISTING." THE US POSITION IS SAID NOT TO "SQUARE UP" WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECLARATION THAT THE US WOULD SUPPLY URANIUM TO COUNTRIES "WHICH GENERALLY USE IT FOR POWER PRODUCTION." THE PRESIDENT IS CREDITED WITH HAVING INTERVENED WITH THE NRC TO OBTAIN ITS APPROVAL FOR THE LAST FUEL SHIPMENT. "NOW THAT THE URANIUM TALKS WITH THE US HAVE GOT BOGGED DOWN, THE NRC MAY NOT BE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE STATE DEPARTMEFT." THE EDITORIAL URGES THAT THERE IS NO REASON FOR INDIA TO "BUCKLE UNDER PRESSURE." ACCEPTANCE OF THE SAFEGUARDS IS CHARACTERIZED AS TANTAMOUNT TO SIGNING THE NPT. IN REVIEWING INDIA'S

OPTIONS, THE PAPER NOTES THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS ALSO LIKELY  
TO PRESS FOR INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION AS A CONDITION FOR  
SUPPLYING FUEL. THE EDITORIAL URGES THAT IN ADDITION TO  
SEARCHING FOR ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF URANIUM, INDIA SHOULD  
SPEED UP ITS OWN NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND PLANS FOR ALTERNATIVE  
SOURCES OF ENERGY.  
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NUCLEAR ENERGY, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NEWDE12446  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770320-0344  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197709103/aaaadikp.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5793ff38-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 NEW DELHI 11799  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1069995  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE PRIME MINISTER ON NUCLEAR MATTERS  
**TAGS:** MNUC, IN, US, (DESAI, MORARJI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5793ff38-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009